Gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongehalek

463. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 514 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prioritized the gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongehalek portion of NF Railways in the list of priority projects for Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Ministry will send the project to Planning Commission for clearance after due prioritization pending any positive reply from Defence Ministry on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal has already been processed for approval of Planning Commission.

Project to improve functioning in Railways

464. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have decided to take number of measures to improve the functioning of railways in view of the large number of accidents occurred during 2003:

(b) if so, whether Railways have cleared an ambitious Rs. 31,000 crore project to reduce possibility of train accidents and employ the latest technology to strengthen weak rail bridges;

(c) to what extent this plan is aiming at totally eliminating collisions which constitute seven per cent of total accidents but accounts for thirty eight per cent of total fatalities;

(d) the total amount to be spent on prevention of derailments; and

(e) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a), (b) and (d) Though measures to improve functioning of Indian Railways, including safety preparedness, is a